

BRACELETS FOR NEW BEGINNINGS

Spanish students make a change one bracelet at a time



140th richest out of **195**

51st poorest country

GDP/capita **\$410**



121st richest out of **195**

70th poorest country

GDP/capita **\$1,580**



12th richest out of **195**

179th poorest country

GDP/capita **\$29,080**

Source: Global Finance Magazine

The Pulsera Project is a program that was newly implemented in the school and focuses on giving back to people in need, but it may be a little different than your average fundraiser. Students in Mrs. Lilly Reyes' Spanish four class and the Spanish Medical Club sold bracelets to raise money for artisans in Nicaragua and Guatemala. Lilly Reyes, the teacher who implemented the project at Castle View, holds the project close to her heart and believes the mission is a unique and creative way to raise money.

"Instead of people from the United States just giving them money and things that they need to survive, they're learning how to do something to earn their own money," Reyes said.

The Pulsera Project wanted the artisans to know the worth of money and of their work. They don't just receive money from people in America. The artisans work for their money and don't just earn that, but also valuable skills. Reyes has actually done this project in a previous school and had great results. Her past school raised \$3,000 and made an immense impact on communities in Nicaragua and Guatemala.

"With the money that we raised, they bought stoves for people in Nicaragua and Guatemala, so, families that used to cook in open fire, they had a stove for the first time," Reyes said.

This project had a much greater impact than Reyes and her class expected and helped provide stoves, which is something so small that many students may take for granted because it's not a problem that exists or is even a thought in most's minds.

Senior Cyrelle Ednilao has played a role in the project, and really enjoys the impact she and the school are creating by selling these bracelets.

"I think it's also cool how the impact of one bracelet can really help people," Ednilao said.

The United States is considered to be fortunate financially, but the same can't be said for Guatemala and Nicaragua. When you're looking at the wealth of each of the countries, there is a large gap between the amounts in Guatemala and Nicaragua and the United States. These bracelets help raise the GDP per capita, the gross domestic product while taking into account the population, and it's also a good measure of standard of living. The GDP per capita for Nicaragua is only \$410, for Guatemala



"The impact of the bracelets is spreading Latin-American culture in our school, and in our hallways," said Senior Cyrelle Ednilao.

\$1,580, and for the US \$29,080. There's a very recognizable difference between those numbers, and the Pulsera Project is trying to help change that.

The wealth that the U.S. holds is a privilege that many take for granted, but having something like the Pulsera Project accessible to students can help them realize that they're very lucky, and many people don't have the same advantages.

written and photos by Samantha Sussman



SPREADING CULTURE:

Students Makenna Maupin, Tatum Boyer, Sarah Hayden and Logan Burchard wear their colorful bracelets in support of the Pulsera Project. They're spreading Latin culture in such a small way, but it's still a major change in the culture of Castle View. "Through the Pulsera Project we can widen our views and help support other communities," Maupin said.